

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a plurality of image printing devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

periodically obtaining, from an image printing device of the plurality of image printing devices by a ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine using a first Internet protocol via a firewall over the network, first device information of the image printing device, the first device information including a globally unique identifier and at least ~~[[two]]~~ one of ~~static~~, a semi-static~~[[,]]~~ state and a dynamic states state of the image printing device;

storing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, the obtained first device information into an information storage;

processing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, stored information of the plurality of image printing devices monitored by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to generate second device information that includes a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

transmitting, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing devices,

wherein the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is remote from the plurality of image printing devices, and the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the plurality of image printing devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are a same Internet protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are different Internet protocols.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

formatting the second device information into a format suitable for display on a web page; and

receiving a request for transmission of the second device information from the second computer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first device information comprises an Internet electronic mail message, and the second device information transmitted by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine comprises an electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
generating, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, the second device information to include summary information regarding usage of the plurality of image printing devices,

wherein the step of transmitting the second device information from the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine comprises transmitting, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, the second device information that includes the information regarding usage of the plurality of image printing devices to the second computer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of image printing devices is one of a printer, a copier, a multifunction device, and a facsimile machine.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a plurality of image printing devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

a ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine configured to

(1) periodically obtain from an image printing device of the plurality of image printing devices using a first Internet protocol via a firewall over the network, first device information of the image printing device, the first device information including a globally unique identifier and at least [[two]] one of static, a semi-static[,], state and a dynamic states state of the image printing device;

(2) store the obtained first device information into an information storage;

(3) process stored information of the plurality of image printing devices monitored by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to generate second device information that includes a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

(4) transmit, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing devices; and

the second computer configured to receive said second device information,

wherein the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is remote from the plurality of image printing devices, and the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the plurality of image printing devices.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a plurality of image printing devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

periodically receiving from the plurality of image printing devices at a monitoring site via a firewall using a first Internet protocol, first device information of the plurality of image printing devices by a service center computer that is remote from the plurality of image printing devices, wherein the first device information includes a globally unique identifier and at least ~~[[two]]~~ one of ~~static~~, a semi-static~~[[,]]~~ state and a dynamic ~~states~~ state of the plurality of image printing devices;

storing, by the service center computer, the obtained first device information into a storage device;

processing, by the service center computer, information in the storage device of the plurality of image printing devices monitored by the service center computer to generate a usage report for the plurality of image printing devices that includes a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

transmitting, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the usage report using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing devices.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the usage report from the service center computer to the second computer as an e-mail message.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are different Internet protocols.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

translating the usage report into a format suitable for display on a web page; and
receiving a request for transmission of the usage report from the second computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a plurality of image printing devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

a service center computer configured to

(1) periodically receive from the plurality of image printing devices via a firewall using a first Internet protocol first device information of the plurality of image printing devices, wherein the first device information includes a globally unique identifier and at least ~~[[two]]~~ one of ~~static~~, a semi-static ~~[[,]]~~ state and a dynamic ~~states~~ state of the plurality of image printing devices;

(2) store the obtained first device information into a storage device;

(3) process information in the storage device to generate a usage report for the plurality of image printing devices that includes a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

(4) transmit, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the usage report using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing devices; and
the second computer configured to receive the usage report.

26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, causes the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to monitor a plurality of an image handling devices communicatively coupled to an intranet network, comprising:

instructions for periodically obtaining, from an image handling device of the plurality of image handling devices by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine using a first Internet protocol via a firewall over the network, first device information of the image handling device, the first device information including a globally unique identifier and at least [[two]] one of static, a semi-static[,], state and a dynamic states state of the image printing device;

instructions for storing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, the obtained device information into an information storage;

instructions for processing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, stored information of the plurality of image handling devices to generate second device information including a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image handling devices; and

instructions for transmitting, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the ~~first monitoring computer~~

service machine to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image handling devices,

wherein the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is remote from the plurality of image handling devices, and the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is the first computer to obtain the device information from the plurality of image handling devices.

30. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, causes the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine to monitor a plurality of image handling devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

instructions for periodically receiving, from the plurality of image handling devices by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine at a monitoring site via a firewall using a first Internet protocol over the network, first device information of the image handling devices, the first device information including a globally unique identifier and at least [[two]] one of static, a semi-static[[,]] state and a dynamic states state of the plurality of image handling devices;

instructions for storing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, the obtained device information into a storage device;

instructions for processing, by the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine, information in the storage device to generate second device information that includes a statistical summary of status information of each of the plurality of image handling devices; and

instructions for transmitting, at regular periodic intervals or upon request, the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the ~~first monitoring computer~~

service machine to a second computer that is connected to the network of the plurality of image handling devices,

wherein the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is remote from the image handling devices, and the ~~first monitoring computer~~ service machine is the first computer to obtain the device information from the image handling devices.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the network is a wide area network.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the network is a local area network.